

REMARKS

At the outset, appreciation is expressed to Examiner Simone for his time during the telephonic interview conducted on July 17, 2007. The remarks below discuss the substance of the interview.

During the interview, the undersigned and Examiner Simone discussed the claim rejections based on the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. In particular, each of the issues set forth on pages 3 and 4 was discussed, and the undersigned proposed possible changes in the wording of Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 18 and 19 that would present claim language more consistent with the wording in the specification. Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 18 and 19 are amended generally along the lines discussed during the interview. Attached to this Amendment is an appendix which shows the changes to Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 18 and 19 embodied in this Amendment relative to the previously presented versions of the claims.

Also accompanying this Amendment is a separate paper discussing the status of the claims and noting where support exists in the original patent for the amended claim wording. Taking into account the discussion in that separate paper, it is respectfully submitted that support exists in the original patent for the language set forth in Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 18 and 19.

One issue raised in the Official Action that is not addressed by the claim amendments is the observation in the Official Action about the wording in Claim reciting that the longitudinal knives are loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large play. As noted during the telephonic interview, support for this wording exists in the original patent, for example at lines 10-12 of column 2 and lines 38-40 of column 5.

Considering the discussion in the accompanying paper, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph are respectfully requested.

It is believed that the claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Upon such indication, a Supplemental Reissue Declaration will be submitted.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By:



Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32,814

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

APPENDIX SHOWING CHANGES TO CLAIMS 1, 7, 9-12, 18 AND 19

1. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus for cutting and stirring curd, comprising a curd vat with a shaft drivable for rotation, which shaft carries a number of cutting frames extending radially from the shaft and arranged on the shaft in staggered relation, each cutting frame having two frame girders, which extend radially from the drivable shaft and between which a lattice work is situated formed from longitudinal knives and transverse knives, the transverse knives being mounted on the frame girders wherein the transverse knives have openings which are in line, in which the longitudinal knives are received, while means are provided for substantially preventing displacement of the longitudinal knives in the longitudinal direction and wherein each longitudinal knife has a ~~smaller cross section than~~ size relative to the size of the openings ~~each opening~~, such that the longitudinal knives being are loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large play.

7. (Thrice Amended) A cutting frame comprising: a pair of parallel girders, the girders being spaced apart and having a plurality of transverse knives extending transversely between the girders and secured to the girders, the transverse knives having a cutting edge extending transversely of the girders and the transverse knives having a plurality of openings, the openings in one of the transverse knives being aligned with openings in adjacent transverse knives, longitudinal knives each having a longitudinal cutting edge, the longitudinal knives extending through the openings in the transverse knives, ~~each opening~~ the openings being larger in size than the ~~cross section of each longitudinal knife~~ knives, the longitudinal knives having means for preventing the longitudinal knives from longitudinal movement ~~relative to the transverse knives~~.

9. (Four Times Amended) The cutting frame according to claim 8, wherein the ~~cross-section of each opening in the longitudinal knives is greater than~~ of a size relative to the cross-section of the pin to provide space in the openings around the pin.

10. (Twice Amended) A cutting frame comprising: a pair of parallel girders, the girders being spaced apart and having a plurality of transverse knives extending transversely between the girders and secured to the girders, the transverse knives having a cutting edge extending transversely of the girders and the transverse knives having a plurality of openings, the openings in one of the transverse knives being aligned with openings in adjacent transverse knives, longitudinal knives extending through the openings in the transverse knives, the longitudinal knives being loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large play, and means for ~~securing~~ substantially preventing displacement of the longitudinal knives ~~from longitudinal displacement relative to the transverse knives in the longitudinal direction.~~

11. (Twice Amended) The cutting frame according to claim 10, wherein the longitudinal knives have a leading side having a longitudinal cutting edge and a trailing edge, and each opening has a size greater than the ~~cross-section~~ size of each longitudinal knife, the openings ~~having~~ comprising recesses aligned with the longitudinal knives and having the leading and trailing edges received in the recesses.

12. (Twice Amended) A cutting frame comprising:

a pair of girders, said girders being spaced apart from each other and having a plurality of transverse knives extending between the girders, ~~means for securing~~ the transverse knives being connected to the girders,

a plurality of longitudinal knives arranged in substantially parallel relation to the girders and being spaced apart from each other, the longitudinal knives being secured against longitudinal displacement relative to the girders,

the transverse knives having a plurality of openings, the openings in each transverse knife being in register with corresponding openings of others of the transverse knives in alignment with the longitudinal knives and through which the longitudinal knives pass, ~~the longitudinal knives being arranged in pairs, and each longitudinal knife comprising two legs connected by a part a part being secured to the longitudinal knives at the opposite ends of the longitudinal knives, the part joining pairs of the longitudinal knives.~~

18. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the means for preventing the longitudinal knives from longitudinal movement ~~relative to the transverse knives~~ comprises one end of the longitudinal knives being welded to one of the transverse knives.

19. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the means for ~~securing~~ substantially preventing displacement of the longitudinal knives from in the longitudinal displacement relative to the transverse knives direction comprises one end of the longitudinal knives being welded to one of the transverse knives.